

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/08/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0630

LOG NAME: 19ACCEPTING HOMELESS HOUSING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS FUNDS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of Grants from and Execution of Agreements with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for Homeless Housing and Services Program Funds in the Approximate Amount of \$393,628.00, Homeless Housing and Services Program-Youth Set Aside in the Approximate Amount of \$130,851.00, and Ending Homelessness Funds in the Approximate Amount of \$64,104.00, with All Amounts Subject to Potential Adjustment as a Result of Legislative Changes; Authorize Execution of Subgrant Agreements with My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County to Provide Rental Assistance, with Transition Resource Action Center to Provide Youth Rental Assistance and Case Management and with When We Love to Provide Temporary Cold Weather Overflow Shelter Service; Find that the Subgrant Agreements Serve a Public Purpose and that Adequate Controls are in Place; and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize acceptance of grants and execution of grant agreements, including the ability to adjust the grant amounts in such agreements, with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Homeless Housing and Services program funds in the approximate amounts of \$393,628.00 (General), \$130,851.00 (Youth) and \$64,104.00 (Ending Homelessness);
2. Authorize the execution of a subgrant agreement with My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County in the approximate amount of \$393,628.00, or the adjusted amount if applicable, to provide rental assistance to at least 30 permanent supportive housing clients (General);
3. Authorize the execution of a subgrant agreement with Transition Resource Action Center in the approximate amount of \$130,851.00, or the adjusted amount if applicable, to provide rental assistance and case management to at least 8 young adults (Youth);
4. Authorize the execution of a subgrant agreement with When We Love in the approximate amount of \$64,104.00, or the adjusted amount if applicable, to provide temporary cold weather sheltering services (Ending Homelessness);
5. Find that the subgrant agreements serve the public purpose of reducing chronic and youth homelessness and providing a basic safety net and that adequate controls are in place through the subgrant agreements; and
6. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating State Fund in the approximate amount of \$588,583.00, or the adjusted amount if applicable, subject to the receipt of the grant, for the purpose of reducing chronic and youth homelessness and providing a safety net.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to approve grants and related agreements for three different categories of services directed to individuals experiencing homelessness.

General

The State of Texas provides grant funding for the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to municipalities with a population of 285,500 or greater, including the City of Fort Worth (City).

The 2024 HHSP amount allocated to the City is approximately \$393,628.00. The HHSP funds may be used to provide rental assistance, case management and other services or housing options to reduce homelessness. Previously the City has had a subgrant agreement with The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Worth doing business as Fort Worth Housing Solutions to pay rental assistance for permanent supportive housing (PSH) clients. Case management for these clients was largely provided by My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR) and funded through the City's Directions Home program. In order to streamline the program by having one agency provide both case management and rental assistance, this year the City will enter into a subgrant agreement with MHMR for rental assistance for at least 30 PSH clients.

Youth

The 2024 HHSP-Youth amount allocated to the City is approximately \$130,851.00. Eligible services include case management, emergency shelter, street outreach and transitional living. CitySquare, through its Transition Resource Action Center (TRAC) program, currently provides rental assistance and case management for young adults in the HHSP-Youth program. The TRAC program has expanded and become its own separate 501c3. The City will enter into a subgrant agreement with TRAC to provide rental assistance and case management for at least 8 young adults annually. There will be no service disruption for clients.

Ending Homelessness

The 2024 Ending Homelessness amount allocated to the City is approximately \$64,104.00. Eligible services are similar to the HHSP program. The City will enter into a subgrant agreement with When We Love to provide temporary cold weather overflow shelter on nights between October 15, 2023 and March 31, 2024 when weather triggers are met and regular shelter beds are full.

The TDHCA has indicated that recently passed legislation may cause the award amounts to be adjusted.

By approval of this Mayor and Council Communication, the City Council finds that funding the subgrant agreements will meet the public purpose of helping to reduce chronic and youth homelessness and support the safety net and that adequate controls are in place through the subgrant agreements to ensure that the public purpose is carried out.

Upon acceptance, the grant will begin on September 1, 2023. The Neighborhood Services Department will administer the HHSP, HHSP-Youth and Ending Homelessness funds and monitor the sub-grantees, MHMR, TRAC and When We Love. The subgrant agreements will be from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024. Since no City salaries will be charged, indirect cost recovery does not apply.

An Assistant City Manager is authorized to execute the agreements associated with these grants.

A Form 1295 is not required for these contracts because: These contracts will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: TDHCA and MHMR. A Form 1295 is required for TRAC and When We Love.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grant Operating State Fund. The Neighborhood Services Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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